

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/939,986

Examiner

Freda A. Nelson

Applicant(s)

ROY ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed August 7, 2006 and the telephone interview of 10/20/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22 and 45-66.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/20/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Response to Amendment

The amendment received on August 7, 2006 is acknowledged and entered. Claims 1, 4, 9-10, 13-15, 23, and 31-32 have been amended. No claims have been added. Claims 1-22 and 45-66 are currently pending due to examiner's amendment canceling claims 23-44.

The drawings filed on August 27, 2001 are accepted by the examiner.

The rejection under 35 USC 101 and 35 USC 112 has been withdrawn due to applicant's amendment.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Frank A. Cona (Reg. No. 38,412).

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for cataloging skills comprising the steps of:
establishing a hierarchical list of defined skills;
assigning an alphanumeric symbol to each of said defined skills to create an Intellectual Capital code for said defined skill; said Intellectual capital code comprising a

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series of one or more said alphanumeric symbols assigned to said defined skills to correspond to said hierarchical list of defined skills;

receiving a set of submitted skills using a machine, wherein said set of submitted skills contains at least one of said defined skills in said hierarchical list;

identifying said Intellectual Capital code corresponding to said defined skill in said set of submitted skills;

adding at least one weighting factor to at least one of said Intellectual Capital codes in said set of submitted skills, said weighting factor having a characteristic that allows it to be used to match and rank at least a portion of said submitted skills; and

storing at least said identified Intellectual Capital codes and said weighting factor in a machine-readable data source.

Claims 23-44 (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A computer-accessible medium containing a computer program for cataloging skills, said computer program being programmed to:

establish a hierarchical list of defined skills;

assign an alphanumeric symbol to each of said defined skills to create an Intellectual Capital code for said defined skill; said Intellectual capital code comprising a series of one or more said alphanumeric symbols assigned to said defined skills to correspond to said hierarchical list of defined skills;

receive a set of submitted skills, wherein said set of submitted skills contains at least one of said defined skills in said hierarchical list;

identify said Intellectual Capital code corresponding to said defined skill in said set of submitted skills;

add at least one weighting factor to at least one of said Intellectual Capital codes in said set of submitted skills; and

store at least said identified Intellectual Capital codes and said weighting factor in a data source.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-22 and 45-66 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

1. As per independent claims 1 and 45, specifically, Nadkarni (US Patent Number 6,266,659), while disclosing a skills database management system and method, do not disclose or fairly teach:

assigning an alphanumeric symbol to each of said defined skills to create an Intellectual Capital code for said defined skill, said Intellectual capital code comprising a series of one or more said alphanumeric symbols assigned to said defined skills to correspond to said hierarchical list of defined skills;

identifying said Intellectual Capital code corresponding to said defined skill in said set of submitted skills;

adding at least one weighting factor to at least one of said Intellectual Capital codes in said set of submitted skills, said weighting factor having a characteristic that allows it to be used to match and rank at least a portion of said submitted skills; and

storing at least said identified Intellectual Capital codes and said weighting factor in a machine-readable data source.

2. The NPL prior art of record, specifically, "Storing, shaping and sharing collective wisdom" and "Making money from brainpower: The new wealth of nations", fail to disclose or fairly teach:

assigning an alphanumeric symbol to each of said defined skills to create an Intellectual Capital code for said defined skill, said Intellectual capital code comprising a series of one or more said alphanumeric symbols assigned to said defined skills to correspond to said hierarchical list of defined skills;

identifying said Intellectual Capital code corresponding to said defined skill in said set of submitted skills;

adding at least one weighting factor to at least one of said Intellectual Capital codes in said set of submitted skills, said weighting factor having a characteristic that allows it to be used to match and rank at least a portion of said submitted skills; and

storing at least said identified Intellectual Capital codes and said weighting factor in a machine-readable data source.

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3. The foreign prior art of record, specifically, WO 98/39716, while disclosing a system and method for coordinating potential employers and candidates for employment, fails to disclose or fairly teach:

assigning an alphanumeric symbol to each of said defined skills to create an Intellectual Capital code for said defined skill, said Intellectual capital code comprising a series of one or more said alphanumeric symbols assigned to said defined skills to correspond to said hierarchical list of defined skills;

identifying said Intellectual Capital code corresponding to said defined skill in said set of submitted skills;

adding at least one weighting factor to at least one of said Intellectual Capital codes in said set of submitted skills, said weighting factor having a characteristic that allows it to be used to match and rank at least a portion of said submitted skills; and

storing at least said identified Intellectual Capital codes and said weighting factor in a machine-readable data source.

4. The remaining dependent claims are considered allowable, as they are dependent and based off of an allowable independent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Freda A. Nelson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7076. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:30 am -6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FAN 10/28/2006


JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

